ABSTRACT:

Encoding device for encoding a program and recording device.

When a program of a certain duration is converted into compressed data (encoded), it is desirable for the total number of data to fit in an available data space, for example, when recorded on an information carrier. More particularly in variable bit rate compression such as a video signal via MPEG-2, this is hard to forecast. For this purpose, a recording device according to the invention comprises a compression unit (22) whose bit rate is influenced by a system controller (45) via a control input (26) during the encoding process in dependence on the remaining part of the vacant data space on the information carrier (1) and the remaining duration of the program. When parameters influencing the bit rate are set in the compression unit (22), the system controller will take the complexity of the program derived during a previously encoded part of the program into account.

Furthermore, a separate encoding device is described arranged for receiving time information and data space information and there is also described the control of the bit rate of a compression unit (22) in dependence on the time, data space and program complexity information.

Fig. 4.